

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6981

BILL NUMBER: HB 1197

DATE PREPARED: Dec 27, 2001

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Sex Offender Registry.

FISCAL ANALYST: Valerie Ruda

PHONE NUMBER: 232-9867

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: *Sex Offender Registry-* The bill requires that a recent photograph and home address of an individual convicted of certain sex offenses and other crimes be included in publications of the sex and violent offender registry. It requires a local law enforcement authority to publish a photograph of an offender on an Internet site maintained by or for the local law enforcement authority.

Local Registration- The bill also requires a local law enforcement authority to request permission to publish a photograph of an offender in a local periodical and broadcast a photograph on a local television station.

Effective Date: July 1, 2002.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Sex Offender Registry-* The Criminal Justice Institute would experience an increase in expenses due to this provision of the bill.

Under current Indiana law, the Institute is not required to publish on its registry: 1) a recent photograph of the offender; or 2) the home address of the offender. The Institute would be required to do so in light of this bill. (Currently, the Institute publishes the name and offense of the offender, as well as other related items.)

In order to provide a photograph and the home address of the offender to Access Indiana for Internet posting, the Institute would be required to enhance its existing database in which it stores sex offender information. The specific cost is currently indeterminable and could possibly require the help of outside contractors. According to the provisions of this bill, local law enforcement agencies would also be required to post photographs on their Internet sites. Scanning photographs into a computer would not be required if they are received from local law enforcement agencies electronically. However, according to the Institute, scanning regular photographs could limit their quality when posted on the site. The Institute would also incur additional costs in printing paper copies of the registry, as required by current law, with photographs included.

The Institute reports that, currently, there are approximately 12,000 entries on the Registry. However, photographs would not be required for all of the current registrants. Only those entries on the registry who are new registrations or those who move and must re-register will require photographs on the Internet site. From 1997 to 2001, an annual average of 442 adult offenders convicted of a sex offense were released from Department of Correction facilities. As of November 2001, approximately 530 sex offenders have an estimated release date on or before December 31, 2002.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Local Registration-* Local law enforcement agencies would experience an increase in administrative expenses due to this provision of the bill.

Under current Indiana law, local law enforcement agencies are required to report sex offender registrations to the Institute for dissemination to the public via Access Indiana. (In addition, the Institute makes available paper copies of the Registry to the following entities: 1) school corporations; 2) nonpublic schools; 3) various state agencies; and 4) certain child care facilities.)

Local law enforcement agencies would be required to publish a photograph of an offender on an Internet site that is maintained by or for the local law enforcement agency. In addition, local law enforcement agencies would be required to notify local media and request that a photograph of the offender be published in a local periodical and broadcast on a local television station. (Local law enforcement officials would also be required to accept recent photographs of offenders to process and deliver to the Institute.)

The specific effects of this portion of the bill would vary between local law enforcement agencies and would be determined by the level of additional technology needed for making photographs available on an Internet site.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Criminal Justice Institute.

Local Agencies Affected: Law Enforcement Agencies.

Information Sources: Catherine O'Connor, Criminal Justice Institute, (317) 232-1295; Department of Corrections.